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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 11, 2021

Mr. Christopher Logan
Acting Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs
Grant Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security / FEMA
400 C Street S.W., 3N
Washington, D.C. 20472-3635

*Application No. EMW-2020-FG-16171

Dear Mr. Logan,

As the Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am pleased to offer my support for the Cliffside Park Fire Department's (CPFD) application submitted to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. They are requesting **\$1,000,000** in funding to acquire a new firetruck to replace an older model from 1987. **This application is one of my top priorities for funding in FY 2020 in the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey.**

The Borough of Cliffside Park is just under a square mile and is home to 26,000 people, making it one of the most densely populated municipalities in northern New Jersey. Defined by its many high-rise, mid-rise and multiple family apartment complexes and high volume of daytime commuter traffic, the Cliffside Park Fire Department faces unique challenges providing emergency services. With 600 new residential building permits issued a year, the Borough of Cliffside Park's population is growing rapidly. In addition, the Cliffside Park Fire Department honors a mutual aid agreement with 11 neighboring municipalities. As a major contributor to the emergency response in the area, the Borough of Cliffside Park is right to request a new vehicle.

The Cliffside Park Fire Department seeks to replace a 34-year-old firetruck, which is no longer NFPA compliant and reliable in emergency situations. Furthermore, the old apparatus presents an immediate risk to the health of Cliffside Park firefighters. With an engine that emits fumes that create dizzy spells and headaches and an open design that lacks seatbelts, the old firetruck is not suitable for operation any longer. Current budgetary constraints prevent the Borough of Cliffside Park from purchasing this new vehicle without the help of federal assistance. Given the scope of responsibility and growing population, we cannot let financial limitations prevent Cliffside Park firefighters from performing the critical services they provide every day.

Throughout my 24 years in the United States House of Representatives, I have fought at every opportunity to make sure our firefighters have the equipment, vehicles, training, and other resources they need to protect our citizens and their personal property. As the author of the FIRE Act, I understand that

fire departments such as that of Cliffside Park are an integral part of our emergency management system and require our utmost respect and assistance in their time of need.

I am pleased to support the Cliffside Park Fire Department's application and respectfully ask that you, within the boundaries of applicable rules and guidelines, look favorably upon their request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Pascrell, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized "P" and "J".

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress